

Do You Know Who Your Daddy Is?

From: Know and Believe:
A Lifetime Journey toward Rediscovering God's Love for You

Taken from Chapter 20: Long-Term Struggles
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Things We Accept

It is important to share these truths repeatedly because it is so very crucial to our understanding of God's love for us. We need to know and believe God is love and His desire for us is always born out of love. Instead, without giving it much thought, we often accept the enemy's intentions and the junk the world flings in our direction *as if from God*.

God is not sending us sickness during "cold and flu season." Let us not assume we will start sneezing when pollen flies. Why not rather declare that "by His wounds, we were healed"?

✎ It is not arrogance
to believe in the promises
and provisions of God. ✎

God wants to help us believe He is good. We do not have to accept something just because the rest of the world does. Praise be to our wonderful and faithful God.

Psalm 91:4-7

*You shall not be afraid of the terror by night,
Nor of the arrow that flies by day,
Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness,
Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.
A thousand may fall at your side,
**And ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come
near you.***

We are all getting older. Our bodies fight us, but we can fight back. Yes, we know that one day we will fall asleep and forever be with Jesus, but we can refuse to assume what the world does concerning "aging." (I'm not saying we won't grow old, just that it's ok to believe God for good health.) Have you heard about the ninety-year-old grandmother who "run circles around" her children and grandchildren and who is as "sharp as a tack" mentally? That's the grandmother I am asking God to make me in the name of Jesus. According to my faith, be it unto me!

Deuteronomy 34:7

Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished.

We need to also be aware that our doctors may have a fatalistic view of aging. Everyone dies, right? Some might unconsciously accept things about getting old and dying that don't line up with what we believe or desire. They might think we are on our way out the door and begin to measure out our healthcare accordingly, but perhaps we are believing we will be satisfied with a long life.

Psalms 91:16

With long life I will satisfy him and show him My salvation.

"I hope to live into my nineties," I tell my doctor, "So, my body needs to function at its best." She may think I'm a little crazy, but it's ok to push a bit to get the best medical care possible.

Let us not accept whatever comes our way. May we know whose child we are and how deeply we are loved by our Father.

Little Miss Joey Takes a Stand

My mom shared with me often how difficult it was being a pastor's kid when she was growing up, and David and I were determined to mitigate the potential for emotional and spiritual harm in our kids' lives. We didn't want them to resent being a PK, but rather be able to look back on it as a blessing. We also believed that having two parents was sufficient and our kids didn't need the rest of the church trying to parent them also. Most people respected the hedge of protection we subtly placed around them and simply loved them.

One Sunday morning after church, everyone was standing around in front of the church talking as we customarily did, and since the cars were parked where everyone was gathered, our daughter who was in about the first grade, innocently sat down on the hood one of the cars. To Joey, this was a completely acceptable behavior as we had an older car and didn't mind if the kids sat on it.

There was an individual in that church who saw her sitting on the car and, instead of informing us (we could not have been more than five steps away), took it upon himself to correct our little daughter and ordered her to get down!

Now, our kids were used to being spoken to with respect and love, even when being corrected. So, there

must have been something about the manner in which this adult spoke to our daughter, a very well-mannered, polite, spunky, gregarious, confident, cheerful, and loving child, who also had a keen sense of justice that caused her to respond, "You can't tell me what to do. My daddy's the pastor," which, greatly infuriated this person who promptly took those five long steps to report our child's offense to me.

*I fought off letting out a little giggle about Joey's response (because I actually thought it was so adorable), and instead apologized and thanked the person for the information, assuring him I'd speak to her. Of course, we talked to Joey about being more respectful and that sitting on other people's cars was not appropriate, but we also told her **we** were her parents and no one else had the right to boss her around. Being the sweetheart that she was, she received this correction and nothing more was said.*

*David and I were proud of our little girl for knowing who she was, and we were especially touched that she knew who her daddy was. If you happen to know Joella, this story will not surprise you at all. Her tender heart and strong sense of fairness are still evidenced in the ministries in which she is involved today, including being a mother to five children of her own. (Don't mess with **her** kids either.)*

I share this with you to make the point that we don't have to take any bullying from the enemy or the things "life" throws at us to defeat and destroy us either. This world will criticize and falsely accuse us, but we can fight back in the name of Jesus, knowing that He already won the battle for us, and we can be confident in knowing who our Father is. Say this with confidence!

I don't have to accept the stuff this life throws my way.

☞God is my Father!☞